

EMERGENCIES IN MEDICAL PRACTICE. Edited by C. Allan Birch, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.C.H. Seventh Edition. (Pp. xii + 784; figs. 123. 50s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1963.

WHEN a textbook reaches seven editions in fifteen years and is translated into two European languages it is clearly filling a place in the needs of the medical profession. The reason for this is its comprehensive approach to emergencies in medicine, paediatrics, medical obstetric problems, tropical diseases and in other associated specialties. A great deal of useful advice is given in medical procedures and their hazards and the medico-legal field is not neglected.

In a series of fourteen appendices information is given regarding various emergency hospital and laboratory services.

Throughout, this book is entirely practical and brings together a great deal of information found in specialised volumes on medicine, medical jurisprudence and toxicology. It is well indexed for easy reference, and I would thoroughly recommend it to hospital and general practitioners and especially to those in charge of casualty departments or acute emergency admissions.

M. W. J. B.

INTRODUCTION TO PHARMACOLOGY. By J. J. Lewis. Second Edition. (Pp. xii + 926; figs. 183. 45s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1962.

WITHIN two years of its first publication, this book is now in its second edition. This in itself reflects the success and popularity of the work.

The book, as the author puts it, "is not intended to be a textook of therapeutics" and its main emphasis is on the structure and mode of action of drugs. It sets out to do its stated task admirably well and, in general, the subject matter is clearly and interestingly presented. Perhaps the diversion into a detailed discussion on enzyme kinetics in the midst of the section dealing with mode of action of drugs is a little confusing, but such are minor criticisms and rarely encountered.

For the medical student, a textbook with more emphasis on clinical therapeutics must come first; but for the inquiring few who would like to find out more about actions of drugs, they would be justly rewarded in referring to this volume.

The author is to be congratulated in producing an excellent addition to the pharmacological textbooks.

T. K. C. K.

FAT EMBOLISM. By Simon Sevitt, M.D., M.Sc., M.A., F.R.C.P.(I), D.P.H. (Pp. 233; figs. 62. 60s.) London: Butterworth, 1963.

AN ever-increasing percentage of the work coming to the pathologist stems from trauma. Whilst many of the problems of traumatic shock are being overcome the coma of cerebral fat embolism is all too commonly fatal. This lesion all too often fails to be demonstrated. Eighty to a hundred per cent. of patients who die with recent fractures show emboli in their lungs.

This monograph covers the aetiology of fat emboli, their origin and mode of action and their eventual fate. There is a competent chapter on embolism of the brain which is responsible for most fatal cases. There is also a chapter on the medico-legal aspects of the problem.

All together this is a useful review of one of the remaining problems of trauma.

J. H. B.